December 28, 1956

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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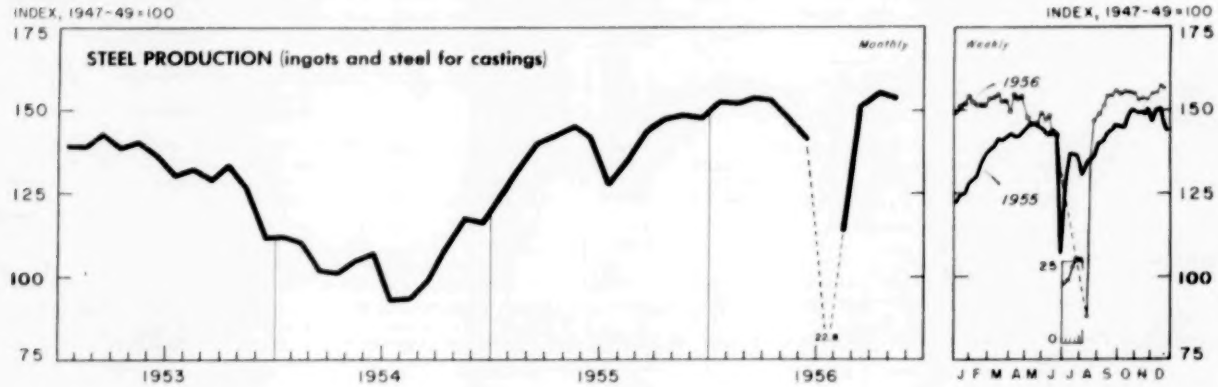
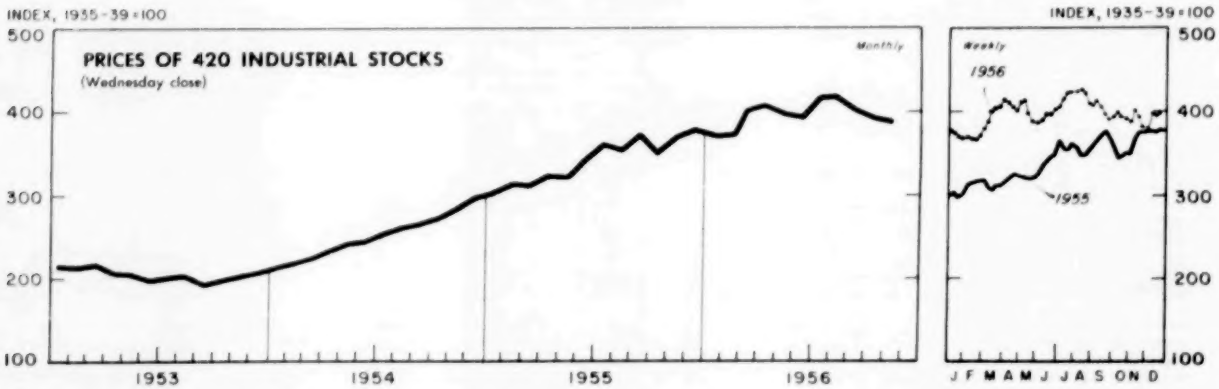
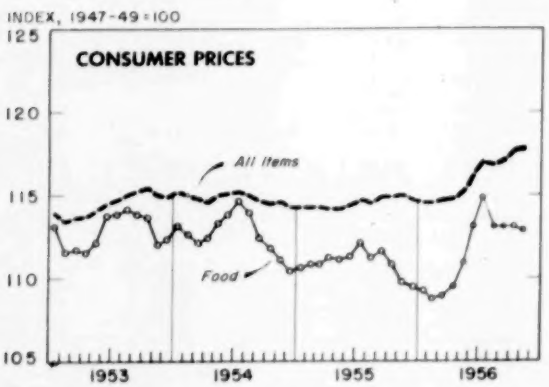
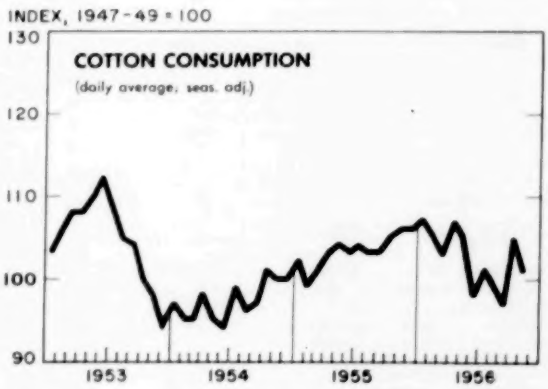
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.3	.....	116.0	116.2	116.1
Farm products.....do....	.....	*82.9	.....	86.8	88.5	87.7
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*98.2	.....	103.2	103.1	102.8
All other.....do....	.....	*119.8	.....	124.5	124.6	124.1
22 commodities 2/.....do....	89.2	89.9	93.8	93.5	93.2	92.3
Department store sales.....do....	255	231	197	227	260	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,181	1,261	1,219	1,250	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,069	1,144	1,116	1,146	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,244	31,364	31,355	31,450	31,660	31,835
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	26,428	27,101	26,374	26,165	26,633	27,223
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,950	19,446	19,375	19,068	19,220	19,535
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	462	654	716	440	520	578
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	58,558	58,739	56,632	56,745	58,215	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,615	21,636	21,761	21,780	21,874	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	85,698	86,846	86,207	86,171	86,497	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	29,559	30,260	26,141	25,820	25,883	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	26,317	26,627	30,407	30,480	30,819	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,156	8,158	8,855	8,848	8,854	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	247	181	254	270	249	214
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.34	3.35	3.95	3.96	3.97	4.00
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand.& Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	324.9	327.9	326.8	339.9	337.7	339.9
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	374.1	378.4	380.3	398.0	395.2	398.0
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,781	1,864	1,823	1,773	1,777	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,602	11,614	12,075	12,047	12,220	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	196,422	169,984	185,038	191,667	182,548	177,117
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,946	6,992	7,133	7,353	7,355	.....
Steel.....thous. of short tons..	1,421	2,338	2,489	2,493	2,522	2,511
Percent of capacity.....	#100.3	#96.9	101.1	101.3	102.4	102.0
Freight carloadings, total 5/.....thous. of cars..	709	672	752	738	717	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	368	342	375	377	367	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for December 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Business incorporations:						
New incorporations (48 States).....number..	10,698	10,157	11,339	9,583	11,546	9,749
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....do....	919	945	1,101	932	1,158	999
Commercial service.....do....	81	70	95	72	82	86
Construction.....do....	136	133	146	146	182	171
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	180	196	195	140	198	166
Retail trade.....do....	437	462	567	489	584	482
Wholesale trade.....do....	85	84	98	85	112	94
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..	34,777	42,783	55,040	39,315	50,004	39,886
Commercial service.....do....	3,655	1,239	4,127	2,058	3,629	1,854
Construction.....do....	8,713	9,744	7,507	7,840	11,145	11,099
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	10,407	14,106	17,828	9,539	17,345	11,714
Retail trade.....do....	9,586	12,626	14,772	15,656	12,368	11,476
Wholesale trade.....do....	2,416	5,068	10,806	4,220	5,517	3,743
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.9	115.0	116.8	117.1	117.7	1/117.8
Apparel.....do....	104.6	104.7	105.5	106.5	106.8	107.0
Food.....do....	110.8	109.8	113.1	113.1	113.1	112.9
Dairy products.....do....	107.5	107.8	109.2	109.8	110.7	111.1
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	108.5	109.0	120.7	114.8	113.9	115.8
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	100.9	97.1	99.9	101.3	100.8	98.8
Housing.....do....	120.8	120.9	122.2	122.5	122.8	123.0
Gas and electricity.....do....	111.2	111.5	112.1	112.2	112.0	111.8
Housefurnishings.....do....	104.4	104.5	102.6	103.3	103.6	103.8
Rent.....do....	130.8	130.9	133.2	133.4	133.4	133.8
Medical care.....do....	128.7	129.8	133.3	134.0	134.1	134.5
Personal care.....do....	117.0	117.5	120.3	120.5	120.8	121.4
Reading and recreation.....do....	106.7	106.8	107.9	108.4	108.5	109.0
Transportation.....do....	126.6	128.5	128.5	128.6	132.6	133.2
Private.....do....	117.1	119.1	118.6	118.7	122.9	123.5
Public.....do....	167.1	167.8	172.9	173.0	173.0	173.4
Other goods and services.....do....	120.6	120.6	122.1	122.7	123.0	123.2

1/ Index based on 1935-39=100 is 197.0.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
COMMODITY PRICES - Continued						
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by--						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	89.6	89.9	87.2	86.6	r86.5	1/86.3
Consumer prices.....do....	87.0	87.0	85.6	85.4	85.0	1/84.9
Retail food prices.....do....	90.3	91.1	88.4	88.4	88.4	1/88.6
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Wheat flour, short patents (Minn.)..dol. per 100 lb. sack..	6.275	6.165	6.040	6.050	5.950	p6.180
Calves, vealers (Chicago).....dol. per 100 lb..	26.00	22.00	23.50	21.00	22.50	p22.50
Lumber:						
Douglas fir,const.,No. 1, 2" x 4", R.L..dol.per M bd.ft..	89.180	87.962	86.773	85.089	r83.159	p81.662
Southern pine, boards, No.2,1" x 6", R. L.....do....	80.683	81.474	81.884	81.884	r81.794	p81.794
Ponderosa pine, boards, No. 3, common, 1" x 8".....do....	80.130	79.360	77.590	73.530	r70.830	p70.143
Pig iron:						
Basic (furnace).....dol. per long ton..	58.50	58.50	62.50	62.50	62.50	p62.50
Foundry, No. 2, Northern.....do....	59.00	59.00	63.00	63.00	63.00	p63.00
Steel:						
Structural shapes (carbon), f.o.b. mill.....dol. per lb..	.0487	.0487	.0527	.0527	.0527	p.0527
Scrap, No.1,heavy melting (Pittsburgh).dol.per long ton..	44.50	45.50	54.00	58.50	55.50	p62.50
Coal, bituminous:						
Screenings, indust. use, f.o.b. car at mine dol. per short ton..	4.706	4.722	5.083	5.091	r5.426	p5.426
Large domestic sizes, f.o.b. car at mine.....do....	7.166	7.187	6.987	7.120	r7.546	p7.602
Petroleum, crude (Oklahoma-Kansas),at wells...dol.per bbl..	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	p2.82
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W.Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	61,135	54,856	61,271	53,757	48,669	42,865
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,863	1,797	2,069	2,025	1,706	1,689
Building, total.....do....	1,475	1,388	1,621	1,540	1,332	1,354
Construction cost index:						
E. H. Boeckh and Associates:						
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	268.5	269.1	280.2	280.8	281.0	281.4
Brick and steel.....do....	264.4	265.1	275.9	276.7	276.9	277.3
Brick and wood.....do....	266.2	266.7	277.2	277.0	277.0	277.3
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	276.3	276.8	288.2	288.9	289.2	289.6
Brick and steel.....do....	273.8	274.4	287.3	288.6	288.8	289.1
Brick and wood.....do....	264.6	265.2	275.9	275.9	276.0	276.3
Frame.....do....	266.4	266.9	276.2	275.4	275.3	275.5
Steel.....do....	259.0	259.4	273.2	274.9	275.1	276.1
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	266.8	267.4	277.8	277.4	277.4	277.6
Frame.....do....	260.8	261.3	271.0	270.5	270.3	270.6
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	2,998	5,527	5,959	6,897	3,660	5,705
Receipts, net.....do....	2,692	4,662	4,954	6,218	3,184	4,818
Customs.....do....	62	65	64	60	75	63
Income and employment taxes.....do....	1,873	4,215	4,772	5,846	2,185	4,478
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	890	1,008	1,030	869	1,149	1,014
All other receipts.....do....	173	240	93	122	250	150
Expenditures, total.....do....	5,355	5,172	5,902	4,918	5,995	5,726
Interest on public debt.....do....	542	542	567	570	582	580
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	359	423	p383	p345	p461	p412
Major national security.....do....	3,293	3,109	p3,580	p3,153	p3,778	p3,536
All other expenditures.....do....	1,161	1,099	p1,371	p850	p1,234	p1,199
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	47,014	47,263	47,922	r45,692	49,543	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	70,722	73,491	72,202	74,808	70,277	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,705	1,385	1,046	1,005	1,556	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	10,340	10,725	9,160	10,130	11,757	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	10,273	10,310	12,138	11,912	10,949	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	7,809	6,124	8,111	r6,969	10,171	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	84,693	75,535	84,495	89,261	95,494	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	107,005	111,181	108,512	114,430	119,056	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	197	186	196	198	189	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	17,698	17,206	19,720	17,468	20,004	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	31,174	29,980	24,143	22,690	27,002	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,880	3,495	3,815	3,945	3,837	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	8,374	8,394	7,395	8,579	9,390	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	415	451	443	324	396	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	385	643	554	279	564	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	44,619	44,665	37,826	r37,598	45,493	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	48,460	48,272	44,288	r44,514	48,789	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	26,498	25,197	21,171	r21,759	25,691	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	62,159	62,200	57,121	60,237	67,176	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by--wholesale prices, 45.2; consumer prices, 50.8; retail food, 43.8.

38,162

ITEM	1955		1956			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS - Continued						
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production - Con.						
Alkyd resins.....thous. of lb..	35,480	34,464	30,421	r27,652	35,383	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	12,628	11,083	11,398	9,377	10,908	.....
Polyester resins.....do....	)		(6,634	5,369	6,473	.....
Polyethylene resins.....do....	) 55,953	57,917	(49,790	51,089	49,110	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	)		(13,140	13,298	13,363	.....
FOODSTUFFS						
Distilled spirits:						
Production.....thous. of tax gal..	r34,909	31,189	12,178	20,386	34,134	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	r17,083	16,731	11,269	14,269	21,817	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r832,606	833,201	849,082	844,208	835,948	.....
Whisky:						
Production.....do....	12,863	13,538	7,191	7,847	10,971	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	9,216	8,978	5,470	7,469	11,120	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	717,991	719,656	736,573	734,041	729,660	.....
Rectified spirits and wines, prod.....thous. of proof gal..	r10,155	9,930	6,052	7,871	13,497	.....
Whisky.....do....	r9,012	8,761	4,885	6,792	12,019	.....
Livestock:						
Cattle and calves:						
Receipts, principal markets.....thous. of animals..	3,058	2,674	2,686	2,721	3,554	2,689
Shipments, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	947	734	580	734	1,081	794
Hogs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	3,251	4,099	2,499	2,676	3,511	3,483
Sheep and lambs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	1,797	1,273	1,403	1,770	1,948	1,085
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	513	247	361	677	802	266
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Cotton: 1/						
Consumption.....bales..	736,860	r741,555	686,275	822,180	732,319	880,549
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):						
Active spindles, last working day, total....thousands..	20,881	20,902	20,465	20,308	20,343	20,289
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	19,302	19,352	18,912	18,780	18,839	18,786
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total..mil. of hr..	10,295	10,150	9,544	11,436	9,847	11,952
Average per working day.....do....	515	508	477	457	492	598
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	9,512	9,393	8,849	10,678	9,162	11,145
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total.....number..	4,233	3,845	5,525	3,458	5,666	6,740
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	2,856	2,749	2,944	1,835	3,728	4,367
Domestic.....do....	2,455	2,331	2,783	1,821	3,728	4,322
Railroad shops, domestic.....do....	1,377	r1,083	2,581	1,623	1,938	2,373
Passenger cars, equipment manufacturers:						
Orders unfilled, end of month, total.....do....	433	399	681	715	706	791
Domestic.....do....	424	390	672	700	684	679
Shipments, total.....do....	206	38	48	46	26	5
Domestic.....do....	204	38	43	42	25	5

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for September 1956 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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